

East Germany

REPORT NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY

TOPIC

1. KVP Engineer Camp in Bad Koesen

2. Engineer Practice near Altenburg

EVALUATION

25X1X

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

25X1C

DATE OBTAINED

25X1C

DATE PREPARED 20 July 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES

1

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. [] the engineer camp in Bad Koesen was occupied by KVP which, source believed, came from Naumburg. Three new low wooden buildings were erected in the camp area. All approach roads to the camp were blocked. The engineer training site on the river was not yet used during the period of observation.¹
2. On 27 May, KVP river crossing was practiced at the Saale bridge near Altenburg. The practice involved about 120 soldiers including soldiers representing the enemy. About 80 soldiers in deployed formation advanced toward the old destroyed railroad bridge. They were armed with 3 light machine guns and 3 pneumatic boats. When they were still about 70 meters from the Saale River they received carbine and light machine gun fire from the other river bank and were forced to take cover. A light machine gun detail moved up to the destroyed bridge and dug in there while an intensive exchange of rifle fire was under way. After all other soldiers had advanced up to this line, three pneumatic boats tried to cross the river under heavy fire. Their attempt was frustrated by the strong current and eddies forming at the bridge. After the pneumatic boats had spun for a while they drove to the enemy river bank where their crews were captured. The action was later severely criticized for lack of sufficient reconnaissance resulting in a faulty choice of the crossing point.¹

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1. [] Comment. According to available information, only a KVP infantry officers' school is stationed in Naumburg. It is believed that the troops mentioned in the present report came from Weissenfels. See []. Another source reported that the Soviet engineer training site had been deactivated on 10 May 1953. See [].

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